

Members

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Rep. Cindy Noe
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Stacey Cornett
Margie Payne
Ronda Ames
Valerie N. Markley
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Kurt Carlson
Chris Taelman
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Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes



COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 20, 2009
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Senate Chamber
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Cindy Noe; Margie Payne; Valerie N. Markley; Bryan Lett; Caroline Doebbling; Kurt Carlson; Chris Taelman; Jane Horn; Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes.

Members Absent: Sen. Vi Simpson; Kathleen O'Connell; Stacey Cornett; Ronda Ames.

I. Call to Order

Senator Connie Lawson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M.

II. Presentation by Mr. Steve McCaffrey, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health America of Indiana

Mr. McCaffrey thanked the Commission for the Commission's work and updated the members on the legislation recommended by the Commission that passed in the 2009

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Session. (Attachment 1) Mr. McCaffrey expressed concern that the Mental Health Medicaid Quality Advisory Committee (Committee), made permanent in legislation recommended by the Commission, is in danger of being repealed and urged the Commission to express support for the continuation of the Committee. Mr. McCaffrey introduced the issues of tobacco use among persons with mental illness and substance abuse disorders (a presentation made later in the meeting). He also indicated that the Commission would hear later about the success of forensic diversion programs and indicated that increasing the use of diversion programs is long overdue in Indiana.

In answer to questions from Representative Brown concerning smoking ban legislation, Mr. McCaffrey said that the Commission has not dealt with smoking cessation and should consider that individuals with mental illness are disproportionately affected by tobacco use.

III. Presentation by Mr. Leon Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer, the Center for Health Care Services, Bexar County Mental Health Authority, San Antonio, Texas, Concerning Systems of Care - Diversion Initiatives

Mr. Evans provided the Commission with information on criminal diversion programs in Texas. (Attachment 2) There was discussion on the issue of incarcerated individuals being terminated from Medicaid instead of having Medicaid eligibility suspended during the time of incarceration. If an individual is considered ineligible, the individual must go through the process of an eligibility determination on release. That can cause a delay in receiving mental health services, whereas if an individual has eligibility suspended while incarcerated, the individual can pick up Medicaid services immediately upon release.

IV. Presentation by Jill Williams, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Director, Mental Health Tobacco Services, University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Psychiatry

Dr. Williams provided information on the disproportionate use of tobacco products by individuals with mental illness and addiction issues. (Attachment 3) In answer to questions, Dr. Williams said that, contrary to widely held views, tobacco use can have a negative impact on the effectiveness of psychiatric drugs. Tobacco use can actually reduce the effectiveness of some medications by forty percent.

V. Update on Licensing of Addiction Counselors, Lisa Bentley, Deputy Director, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA)

Ms. Bentley reported that the IPLA is ready to promulgate the rules governing licensure of addiction counselors as required by P.L. 122-2009. The hearing on the rules is November 23. The IPLA is waiting for the Office of Management and Budget to approve the fees in the proposed rules. The Governor's office is still working on finding individuals to appoint to the committee governing licensure, and Ms. Bentley asked the Commission members to contact her if they had any recommendations those appointments.

VI. Presentation by Mr. Matt Brooks, Executive Director and CEO, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc., Concerning Mental Health Issues in Indiana

Mr. Brooks provided an overview of challenges in the mental health field. (Attachment 4) Mr. Brooks expressed concerns with the audits involving community

mental health centers.

VII. Comments offered by Ms. Gina Eckart, Director, DMHA

Ms. Eckart provided the Commission with comments on the proposed changes to the Medicaid reimbursement (MRO) program, the audit issues, and consumer services reviews. (Attachment 5)

VIII. Other Business

Senator Lawson recognized **Ms. Pam MacConey**, representing NAMI, to make a few comments. Ms. MacConey said that she wanted everyone to remember that the lives of individuals are impacted by all decisions made when serving individuals with mental illness.

IX. Adjournment

Senator Lawson reminded the members that the final meeting of the Commission is Monday, October 26, at which time the Commission will adopt a final report and resolutions arising from information received by the Commission during the 2009 interim.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.